

Legislative Update

Vol. 9. No. 5

Governor Locke Sets Out Strategy for Providing Farmworker Housing

The issue of how to meet farmworker housing needs has been long debated. This year, the Governor has proposed a multifaceted effort to address the continuing lack of housing for farmworkers and their families. Hearings have been held in the Senate on bills requested by the Governor. In the House, the Economic Development, Housing and Trade Committee has held an informational work session. As it has in the past, the Department of Health is playing an important role in addressing the issue.

The Governor's strategy for farmworker housing includes the following elements:

Permanent Seasonal Worker Housing: a ten-year capital plan primarily for construction of permanent low income housing.

Migrant Housing: a ten-year capital plan which will build one migrant based project a year, with growers assuming the operational costs. The first project is set to open in Mattawa this spring.

On-Farm Housing: legislation to consolidate enforcement and technical assistance for onfarm housing. Regulations and enforcement now lie in three different state agencies. Legislation will consolidate the program into the Department of Health. Enforcement staff will more than double in the Department. L&I will triple the pesticide inspections and increase safety and health inspections.

\$8 million is being requested as part of the Capital budget to begin construction of permanent, low-income housing for seasonal farmworkers as well as community-based housing for migrant workers. SB 5594 and its companion bill, HB 1497, establish a one-stop clearing house where growers, local governments and nonprofit organizations preparing to expand farmworker housing can get the information and technical assistance they need. SB 5599 directs the Department of Health and Labor & Industries to develop joint rules for the licensing, operation and inspection of temporary worker housing and the enforcement of the rules. It designates the Department of Health as the lead agency for on-farm housing. §

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Department Tracks Student Health Legislation

The Department has been closely .following issues relating to student health this session. The issue of healthy students in our schools is the subject of one of the Department's Strategic Initiatives for Public Health, adopted in 1998. The Student Health Initiative seeks to provide safe and effective student health services. Department goals include addressing the lack of trained and available personnel to meet health needs in the school setting; improving data available to described student health needs; and increased funding for school health needs.

One bill the Department has been following is SB 5590. Under current state law, schools can only honor requests for oral medications if they come from a licensed physician or dentist. School personnel administer oral medications to students when they get such a request from parents, accompanied by instructions, with proper identification of the medication to be administered and a means for safekeeping the medication. There are an increasing number of school age children who receive prescriptions from physician's assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners. Current law does not allow for prescriptions written by these practitioners to be accepted in schools for the purposes of administering oral medications to students.

SB 5590 recognizes that there are person other than physicians and dentists who are authorized to prescribe drugs in this State. The benefits seem clear — parents will appreciate the simplification of the process. It will make it easier for a parent to obtain the proper written request that will authorized the school to appropriately administer drugs to children. Prescribers not now mentioned in this law will appreciate that their patients may receive needed drugs without delay. School districts will be able to accept drugs and instructions from additional practitioners. §

LEGISLATIVE INTERNET LINKS

Legislative information can be accessed via the internet. The following are a few links that may be of interest:

Legislative Update Newsletter

http://www.doh.wa.gov/publicat/98_legup.htm

Legislative Information

WWW - http://www.leg.wa.gov Gopher - gopher.leg.wa.gov FTP - ftp.leg.wa.gov Email - ftpmail@leg.wa.gov

Washington State House of Representatives

http://www.leg.wa.gov/www/house/members/housepg.htm

Washington State Senate

http://www.leg.wa.gov/www/senate.htm

Washington State Governor's Home Page

http://www.wa.gov/governor

TVW indicates that TVW tentatively plans to televise either LIVE or on a tape delayed basis. For additional information on TVW scheduling or availability, please call TVW at (360) 586-5555, or visit the TVW web site at: www.tvw.org

Legislative Cut Off Dates

March 2, 1999: Policy cutoff for the House.

March 3, 1999: Policy cutoff for the Senate.

March 8. 1999: Fiscal cutoff for both houses.

March 17, 1999, 5:00 p.m.: Final consideration for the house of origin.

April 2, 1999: Policy cutoff for the opposite house.

April 5, 1999: Fiscal cutoff for the opposite house.

April 16, 1999, 5:00 p.m: Final consideration for the opposite house.

April 25, 1999: Sine Die. §

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Mandated Benefit Status Report

Several mandated benefits bills have been heard so far this session. The Department had conducted a sunrise review of these proposals in either 1997 or 1998. Here's a quick status report:

SB 5398 — Eating Disorders — Requires state regulated health plans to cover eating disorders at the same level they cover other "major illnesses." The hearing began on February 8; will continue on February 17.

SB 5425 — Mental Health Parity — Requires state regulated health plans to cover mental health treatment and services at the same level they cover physical illnesses. the hearing has taken place; no executive action taken.

SB 5512/HB 1590 — Contraceptive Services — Requires state regulated health plans to cover prescription drugs, devices and outpatient services for contraceptive and family planning services. Senate hearing held; no executive action taken.

HB 1889 — Dental Anesthesia — Requires state regulated health plans to cover dental anesthesia for certain patients in hospital settings; requires dental plans to cover anesthesia for certain patients in dental settings. No hearing scheduled.

SB 5349 — Cranial Hair Prostheses — Requires state regulated health plans to cover the provision of cranial hair prostheses at the same rate they cover other prosthetic devices. Hearing held on February 10.

SB 5112 — Mastectomy services — Would require state regulated health plans to allow only the attending physician and patient to decide inpatient length of stay for mastectomy services. Hearing held; on second reading.

Copies of the department's sunrise review reports are available upon request. Some are posted on the agency's web site **http://doh.wa.gov/publications**. Please call Lance Martin at 360-236-4622 for more

New Department of Health Web Site Promotes Statewide Health Education Networking

H.E.R.E. (Health Education Resource Exchange) in Washington is a project of the Department of Health's, Office of Health Promotion and was developed in response to a statewide needs assessment of state and local public health staff.

H.E.R.E. in *Washington* is an on-line clearinghouse of people, projects, tools, and resources in Washington designed for population-based health promotion and health education activities in a variety of settings.

H.E.R.E. in Washington provides a means for networking and sharing community projects, program successes, educational materials, tools, books, professional train-

i n g opportunities, and important events. The information available on this site is provided by public health staff from across the state and reflects programs that are currently being implemented in Washington communities. The clearinghouse also has links to other health databases and useful Internet resources.

We strongly encourage you to be a part of this information exchange. If you would like to visit or contribute to the Health Education Resource Exchange, please surf on over to http://www.hereinwa.org. You can email your questions or contributions to Don Martin, project manager, from the website. §

Meeting Schedule

Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee

Senate Hearing Room 4

Monday	1:30	-	3:30
Wednesday	1:30	_	3:30

Thursday1:30 - 3:30

House Health Care Committee House Hearing Room C

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Tuesday	1:30 - 3:30
•	8:00 - 10:00
Saturday	1.30 - 3.30 8

February 12, 1999

Jennifer Bush

Data and Confidentiality

HB 1262: Year 2000 Computer Problem

Allows the Insurance Commissioner to provide technical assistance to insurance companies and health carriers in addressing the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. Requires the Commissioner to include an examination of whether the insurer or carrier has a Y2K computer problem and the insurers' or carriers' efforts to address any problems in this area. Directs the Commissioner to report to the Governor and chairs of the legislative committees dealing with insurance issues by July 1, 1999, and October 1, 1999, regarding the potential Y2K computer problem faced by the state's insurers and carriers. **House Financial Institutions & Insurance.**

HB 1372/SB 5240: Birth Defects Surveillance

Repeals the Handicapped Children's Registry statute. **House Health Care/Senate 2nd Reading.**

HB 1603: Medical Research Records

Establishes procedures to regulate the disclosure of medical and health research records. **House State Government.**

HB 1835: HIV/Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Strengthens provisions relating to the confidentiality of information relating to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. **House Health Care.**

HB 1881: Social Security Number Use

Protects the privacy of the citizens of Washington by restricting the use of social security account numbers by companies, government agencies, and organizations that use individual's social security account numbers for numerical identifiers, account numbers, and other record-keeping purposes. **House Judiciary.**

SB 5201: Vital Statistic Record Fees

The fees that the Department of Health and local registrars charge for copies of records and for searches of records are raised by \$2. Of that amount, the local registrar must submit to the State Treasurer for each copy or search \$1. The additional \$1 submitted to the State Treasurer must then be transferred to the Department of Health. These provisions relating to the establish-

ment of fees expire on July 1, 2001. Authorizes the State Board of Health to set fees for copying and searching services after July 1, 2001, according to its rulemaking authority. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5482: Medical Research Records

Makes vital statistics records available for inspection, copying, and use by a health research organization in connection with a medical or health research project that an institutional review board has approved. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5767: Year 2000 Computer Conversions

Requires businesses and agencies to exercise reasonable care to prepare their electronic computing devices to continue normal operation after the year 2000 (Y2K). Requires citizens and clients of agencies to receive statutorily mandated services, entitlements, and compensation delivered through electronic computing devices without interruption through and after Y2K. Vendors and contractors providing goods and services to agencies must continue to receive payment without interruption through and after Y2K. States that affected citizens, clients, vendors, and contractors have recourse to existing administrative or contractual remedies to obtain redress, but not punitive damages as a result of a Y2K related failure. **Senate Judiciary.**

SB 5793: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Increases the protection of confidential information related to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4.

Disease Prevention and Control

HB 1080: Infectious Disease Testing

Provides infectious disease testing at no cost to good Samaritans for infectious diseases after rendering emergency assistance that has brought them into contact with a bodily fluid. **House Health Care, Do Pass.**

HB 1371/SSB 5199: Tuberculosis Control

Revises provisions relating to reporting, treatment, and payment for treatment of tuberculosis. Repeals obsolete sections of tuberculosis statutes. **House Health Care/Senate Eligible 2nd Reading.**

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HB 1672: Hepatitis C Management

Requires the Department of Corrections to submit to the legislature, by December 15, 1999, a report on how the department manages hepatitis C in the inmate population, and to make recommendations on how to improve that management. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 10:00 a..m., House Hearing Room E.*

HB 1800: Needle Stick Protections

Requires each employer to conduct product evaluations of needleless systems and sharps. Product evaluations should include devices used in the employer's facility where there is a sharps injury risk. **House Health Care.** *Public Hearing, 2-12-99, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room C.*

HB 1890 Allergenic Latex Use

Prohibits, effective January 1, 2000, the use of powder latex products in health care facilities. Health care facilities must establish, upon the recommendations of DOH, written policies on methods to prevent latex allergic reactions through the use of low-protein latex products. **House Health Care.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room C.*

SB 5138: Body Art Facilities

Directs the State Board of Health to adopt rules for permitting local health jurisdictions to regulate body art operators and body art facilities. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5172: HIV Testing of Offenders

Requires local health jurisdictions to conduct or cause to be conducted pretest counseling, HIV testing, and posttest counseling of all persons who are offenders or arrested or detained persons and who have subjected a law enforcement officer, fire fighter, health care facility staff person, Department of Corrections staff person, jail staff person, or other category of employee, as determined by the State Board of Health, to substantial exposure to their bodily fluids. Persons tested under this provision shall also be tested for Hepatitis B. **Senate Human Services & Corrections.**

Environmental Health

HB 1054/SB 5125: Pesticide Registration Commission

Appropriations made to Washington State University

may now expressly be used for evaluations, studies, or investigations approved by the Commission for such Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and pesticide resistance management programs. Added to the duties of the Commission is the requirement that it encourage agricultural organizations to provide assistance for IPM and pesticide resistance management programs for minor crops and minor uses that would benefit the organizations. An official action may now be taken by the Commission by a majority vote of its quorum, rather than a majority vote of the voting members. **House Passed 3rd/Senate Eligible 2nd Reading.**

HB 1163/SB 5106: Illegal Drug Manufacture

Finds that the contamination of properties used for illegal drug manufacturing poses a threat to public health. The toxic chemicals left behind by the illegal drug manufacturing must be cleaned up to prevent harm to subsequent occupants of the properties. Declares an intent that properties are decontaminated in a manner that is efficient, prompt, and that makes them safe to reoccupy. House Agriculture & Ecology/Senate Environmental Quality and Water. Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 2.

HB 1164/SB 5105: Public Water System Definition

Revises the definition of public water system to include systems providing water through constructed conveyances, in conformance with federal law. House 2nd Reading/Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

HB 1182: Coordinated Water Systems

Requires a coordinated plan for water systems. **House Agriculture & Ecology.** *Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 8:00* a.m., *House Hearing Room A.*

HB 1264/SB 5361: Water-Sewer Districts

Makes technical corrections regarding combining water-sewer districts. **House Local Government/Senate State & Local Government.**

HB 1310: PUD Authority

Revises provisions relating to the authority of a public utility district to furnish water to persons outside of the district and the county where the district is located, and to establish local utility districts for water or sewer facilities outside of a district and the county where it is located. **House Local Government.** Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.

HB 1314/SB 5289: Water Resource Management.

Finds that numerous fish stocks of the state are being listed or are proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and that various state laws relating to water resources, land use, and fish protection and restoration must be strengthened to minimize the potential for federal preemption of state authority and autonomy regarding the management of the state's fisheries and water resources. Provide funds to the Department of Ecology for grants and loans to public bodies engaged in irrigation water supply for the purpose of improved drought preparedness. Requires each public water system with fifteen or more service connections to implement a water conservation program promotion targeted at system customers and implement other cost-effective water conservation measures identified in approved water conservation plans. Requires public water systems with one thousand or more service connections to implement a leak detection and repair program, and repair leaks if the system's unaccounted for water is ten percent or more of total system water usage; conduct water audits to identify internal water distribution and associated opportunities for improved water use efficiency; and utilize commodity-based water rates and not declining block rate structures. Requires public water systems with fifteen or more service connections to collect monthly water use data from all water sources used to serve the system. Requires the Department of Ecology in consultation with the DOH to adopt rules establishing water use efficiency performance standards for various water uses by December 31, 2000. Requires the Department of Ecology, in consultation with the DOH and water purveyors, to adopt rules by December 31, 2000, establishing criteria to determine when the use of reclaimed water is feasible to replace potable water supplied for nonpotable water use. Local governments may adopt ordinances requiring the use of reclaimed water for nonpotable uses when determined feasible. Directs the Department of Ecology to convene a group consisting of representatives from major stakeholder groups concerned with water resources management as well as scientists recognized for their expertise in the fields of hydrology, hydrogeology, fish biology, stream ecology, and stream restoration to review, assess, and recommend methods for mitigating the effects caused by proposed ground water withdrawals. The Department of Ecology shall adopt rules to implement the findings of the group and shall report on the group's progress, findings, and any recommendations for possible legislative action to the legislature by December 31, 1999. Makes appropriations to carry out the purposes of the act. **House Agriculture & Ecology/Senate Environmental Quality & Water.** Executive Session, 2-16-99, 10:30 a.m., Senate Conference Rooms A, B & C.

HB 1432: Dairy Commission

Authorizes the Dairy Commission to participate in federal and state regulatory activities and expend funds when such activities affect the production, manufacture, distribution, sale, or use of dairy products, and educate the dairy industry on such matters. **House Agriculture & Ecology.**

HB 1468: Water Supply Adequacy

Directs the Department of Ecology to provide information regarding the adequacy of water supplies to meet the demands of projected growth. **House Agriculture & Ecology**

HB 1498: Growth Management Act

Revises the growth management act to place equal emphasis on the rights of property owners. **House Local Government.**

HB 1502: Instream Water Rights

Declares a water right for instream use may be held by the state through the establishment of a reservation or minimum flow or level as specified in state law, or may be held by the state as a trust water right. A water right for instream use may also be established, changed, transferred, or amended in the manner prescribed for a water right for any other use and may be held as an appropriative right by any person or entity whatsoever. **House Agriculture & Ecology.**

HB 1517: Municipal Water Supply

Declares "municipal water supply purposes" means the use of water to satisfy the needs of a city, a town, a public utility district, a water-sewer district, or a Group A public water system. **House Agriculture & Ecology.** Executive Session, 2-18-99, 8:00 a.m.., House Hearing Room A.

HB 1527/SB 5564: Water-Sewer District. Assumption

Revises the law governing assumptions of water and sewer districts by cities. **House Local Government**/

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Senate State & Local Government.

HB 1563: Safe Foods Initiative

Establishes the Safe Foods Initiative at Washington State University to promote safe food products for domestic and global markets; to protect food crops from devastating pests; and to create high-quality, economically viable, safe food production systems. **House Agriculture & Ecology.** *Public Hearing, 2-17-99, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room C.*

HB 1612/SB 5354: Geoduck Diver Licenses

Prohibits the Director of Fish & Wildlife from issuing new geoduck diver licenses unless fewer than fifty persons are eligible for renewal. House Natural Resources/Senate Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

HB 1642: Surface Water Permits & Rights

Allows water permit holders to change the point of water diversion for an undeveloped portion of an existing water right permit from an existing authorized diversion point, downstream to an existing intake structure, if there is no change in ownership of the permit or the original purpose and place of use of the water. **House Agriculture & Ecology.**

HB 1802: Salmon Run Recovery Program

Creates a pilot program for salmon recovery in Whatcom County. **House Natural Resources.**

HB 1813: Water Rights Applications

Authorizes DOE to give processing priority for transfers, changes, and amendments to existing water rights over applications for new water rights. **House Agriculture & Ecology.**

HB 1839: Water Rights/Instream Use

Provides that a water right for instream use may be held by the state through the establishment of a reservation or minimum flow or level or may be held by the state as a trust water right. A water right for instream use may also be established through the approval of a change, transfer, or amendment of an existing water right in the manner prescribed for a water right for any other use. A water right for an instream use established through such a change, transfer, or amendment may be held as an appropriative right by any person or entity. **House Agriculture & Ecology.** Public Hearing, 2-19-99, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room A.

HB 1876: County Small Mines

Limits the authority of counties with small populations for regulating certain aspects of mining. **House Natural Resources.**

HB 1900: Water Right Transfer/Change

Declares that processing applications for changes, transfers, and amendments of existing water rights shall not be delayed or postponed for the purpose of processing applications for new water right permits. **House Agriculture & Ecology.**

HB 1919/SB 5682: Mobile Home Park Septic System

Authorizes local governments to require that septic systems be removed from mobile home parks in areas designated as having a critical recharging effect for an aquifer that is the primary drinking water source for a city of over 150,000 population. House Local Government/Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

SB 5045: Mobile Home Park Septic System

Authorizes local governments to require that septic systems be removed in areas designated as critical for aquifer recharging. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5059: Radioactive Waste Transport

Authorizes counties to assess impact fees to cover the costs associated with the transport of radioactive waste over their roadways. **Senate Environmental Quality Water Resources.**

SB 5067: Uranium and Thorium Mills

Prohibits DOH from approving a license or the renewal of a license for a uranium or thorium mine, mill, or tailing facility, if the license is based on a reclamation, closure, or decommissioning that involves the receipt, storage, permanent impoundment, or disposal of radioactive materials, including uranium or thorium mill tailings and byproduct material, at a licensed site or proposed licensed; except where the radioactive materials proposed for receipt, storage, permanent impoundment, or disposal is produced at a mine associated with, and under the same operator or ownership as, the licensed site or proposed licensed site. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5072: Uranium and Thorium Mills

No state agency may issue a permit for the transportation of low-level radioactive mill tailings which is classified as 11e(2) waste under the Atomic Energy Act. DOH may not approve the license or re-licensure for the reclamation, closure or decommissioning of a uranium mill, thorium mill, or tailing facility if the reclamation uses 11e(2) radioactive materials not produced at the site. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5080: Biomedical Waste Operations

Requires that each biomedical waste treatment (deactivation) facility operating under a solid waste handling permit shall develop a hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plan. The plan scope must cover worker health and safety, and health risks to the community surrounding the treatment facility. The plan must be submitted to the local health jurisdiction for review. In reviewing the plan, the local health jurisdiction must consult with the DOH, Ecology, and L&I. The local health jurisdiction must complete its review within 120 days of submission, and shall submit any recommendations for changes to the plant operator. local health jurisdictions must monitor the operation of the facilities to assure that they are operated according to the plan. If public health or worker safety issue arise at a plant, or if a significant change occurs such as a change in the source of waste, any of the involved public agencies may propose a revision to the plan. local health jurisdictions, with assistance from the DOH, must establish verification procedures as a condition of the permit, or if an incident occurs that threatens public or worker health. Initial plans must be completed within two years of the bill's effective date. The plant operator must update the plan every two years following. Treatment facilities established after adoption of the bill must develop a plan before commencing operations. Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources. Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 2.

SB 5081: Biomedical Waste Treatment

Requires DOH, in consultation with the Department of Ecology and local health jurisdictions, to evaluate the environmental and public health impacts of biomedical waste treatment technologies, and that the evaluation be consistent with that protocol established by the State and Territorial Association on Alternative Treatment Technologies (STAATT). All direct costs associated with the evaluation are borne by the applicant of a technology. Such costs must be paid either to the DOH,

or to a state or local entity designated by the DOH. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 2.*

SB 5082: Biomedical Waste Inactivation

Declares, beginning January 1, 2001, cultures and stocks that are infectious to humans generated at microbiological laboratories shall be treated to accomplish microbial inactivation before being transported from the facility. Requires the Department to adopt, by rule, a surcharge on the license fee in this section for medical test sites licensed in microbiology to generate twenty thousand dollars per biennium to administer this act. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 2.*

SB 5083: Biomedical Waste Disposal

Provides \$100,000 to the University of Washington School of Public Affairs to conduct a study in consultation with DOH to evaluate the relative risks posed by different methods of treatment and disposal of biomedical waste. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 2.*

SB 5091: Water Rights Regulators

Establishes a more effective method of water resource management in the state of Washington. Declares in order to meet this intent, it is necessary to create a system of locally based water rights regulators, focus on water conservation, actively work to ensure proper water allocation procedures are followed, and rely on a market driven water transfer process. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources**.

SB 5107: Puget Sound Action Team

Revises the membership of the Puget Sound action team and the interagency advisory council. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5190: Lakes Management

Creates lake management service areas to provide lake management services and facilities. Creates an aquatic plant management permit program, to coordinate, timely and predictable permit processes that will assist property owners and local governments in controlling aquatic plants. Directs the Department of Ecology to establish and administer a demonstration project for the control of Eurasian water milfoil, for the purpose

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of evaluating the effectiveness of the pesticide 2,4-D at eradicating early infestations. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5228: Noise Health Effects Study

Authorizes a comprehensive review of current federal research studies on the health effects of noise and a review of current state and stream restoration to review, assess, and recommend methods for mitigating the effects caused by proposed ground water withdrawals. **Senate Ways & Means.**

SB 5433: Biomedical Waste Disposal

Requires the inclusion of a program for the safe handling, transport, and disposal of biomedical waste. The program shall specify how biomedical waste will be segregated from other solid waste. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5435: Environment 21 Commission

Creates the Washington Environment 21 Commission. Directs the Commission to develop recommendations for legislative and executive consideration and implementation that will increase the reliance upon environmental strategies that emphasize market incentives, pollution prevention, public education, and technical assistance; reduce inefficiency by all levels of government; achieve greater consistency among the goals, standards, and objectives of existing environmental quality statutes; build upon the recommendations of the land use study commission; ensure that the relative priority of environmental threats to the state is a central consideration in the development of state operating and capital budgets for environmental programs; achieve a uniform, consistent, and high-quality periodic assessment of the state's environmental quality, improve monitoring and data management relating to environmental quality, and establish a system to assess state-wide environmental trends over time to assist in developing policies and budgets; and reduce or eliminate environmental programs or activities that do not provide a substantial contribution to maintaining the state's environmental quality. Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

SB 5478: Stream and Lake Levels

Directs the Department of Ecology to incorporate the best available science in establishing flows or levels. In developing methodologies for establishing flows or levels adequate to support the recovery of salmon and trout populations, the DOE must consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the science panel. DOE shall periodically consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the science panel to ensure an ongoing application of best available science in its exercise of authority under this act. Requires that for the period beginning July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2003, DOE must place the highest priority in exercising the authority under this act upon the adoption of flows or levels for the recovery of depressed salmon and trout populations. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources**.

SB 5479: Water Resource Transfers

Enacts a comprehensive set of laws to govern voluntary transfers of and changes in water rights, including authorizing additional types of transfers of and changes in water rights in which the water code is silent or does not allow before the effective date of this section, providing more opportunity for compensatory and consensual mechanisms in which third-party interests may be addressed and transfers allowed that would otherwise be prevented by the water code's no impairment rule improving the processing of applications for transfers and providing for expedited decisions upon short-term transfers, improving the collection, management, and accessibility of information relating to water rights transfers, and providing assistance locally and at the state level to encourage water transfer transactions and the development of markets for water transfers generally. Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

SB 5500: SEPA Exemptions

Declares decisions pertaining to the following activities are exempt that State Environmental Protection Act: construction of or location of any residential structures of ten or fewer dwelling units; construction of any office, school, commercial, recreational, service, or storage building with eight thousand or fewer square feet of gross floor area, and with associated parking for forty or fewer automobiles; construction of a parking lot designed for forty or fewer automobiles; division of land into nine or fewer lots or parcels; and any landfill or excavation of five hundred cubic yards throughout the total lifetime of the fill or excavation. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5507: Water Rights Processing

Revises provisions relating to the processing of water rights. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5543: Water-Sewer District. Assumption

Revises provisions relating to the assumption of water-sewer districts by cities or towns. **Senate State & Local Government.**

SB 5546: Water Resources

Authorizes the Department of Ecology to establish and maintain a stream keeper volunteer program. Declares the duties of stream keeper volunteers are limited to providing information and assistance regarding water use, facilitating cooperative arrangements among water right holders during periods of shortage, making visual inspections and documenting and reporting perceived potential violations of the water code, collecting and reporting data from metering and measuring devices, and other duties as determined by the department. Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

SB 5565: Water Withdrawal Measurement

Declares accurate measurement of water withdrawal and water use is essential for sound management and conservation of water resources in the face of continually increasing demand and limited supply. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5595: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Establishes the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which will be responsible for making grants and loans for salmon recovery projects. **Senate Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.**

SB 5597: Airborne/Waterborne Pathogens

Requires that airborne and waterborne pathogen risks be reduced by application of occupational health standards for airborne and waterborne pathogens that are comparable to those developed to protect workers from bloodborne pathogens. The Department of Labor & Industries, in consultation with DOH, shall develop and adopt occupational health standards for biological agents that protect workers from airborne and waterborne pathogens. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m..., Senate Hearing Room 2.*

SB 5709: Farm Use of Pesticides

States that liability and settlement provisions of the Model Toxics Control Act do not apply to any person who, for the purpose of growing food crops, prepares, stores, mixes, transports, cleans residue of, applies, or otherwise uses pesticides or fertilizers on the farm property without negligence and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. **Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.**

SB 5800: Commercial Fertilizer

Revises provisions relating to unlawful commercial fertilizers. **Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.** *Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 10:00 a.m.., Senate Hearing Room 2.*

SB 5803: Dairy Nutrient Management

Directs the Department of Ecology to publish a guide to all registered dairy farms in the state regarding dairy nutrient management. Creates a Dairy Nutrient Management Task Force, which will make recommendations on dairy nutrient management. Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development

SB 5804: Water Rights Change

Allows water rights to change from one agricultural use to another. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

Families and Children

HB 1058/SB 5296: Juvenile Violence Deterrence

Develops a grant program to fund research-based prevention and early intervention programs targeting youth and their families when the youth has not yet entered the juvenile justice system. Makes an appropriation of five million dollars. House Criminal Justice & Corrections, Do Pass/Senate Human Services & Corrections.

HB 1244: Family Services

Provides \$1,962,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$1,963,000 for fiscal year 2001 to operate the Family Policy Council and the Community Public Health and Safety networks. **House Appropriations.**

HB 1361/SB 5327: Abortion/Parent Notification

Prohibits a physician from performing an abortion upon an unemancipated minor or upon an incompetent per-

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son unless the physician has given forty-eight hours actual notification to a custodial parent or to the guardian of the pregnant unemancipated minor or pregnant incompetent person. Allows exceptions for victims of sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse by either of her parents or her guardian, as the attending physician must then provide notification to a brother or sister of the unemancipated minor or incompetent person who is over twenty-one years of age, or to a stepparent or grandparent specified by the unemancipated minor or incompetent person. Declares a parent, guardian, or other person must not coerce an unemancipated minor or incompetent person to have an abortion performed. Authorizes the unemancipated minor or incompetent person to petition a superior court for a waiver of the notification requirement and to participate in proceedings on her own behalf. Declares any physician who intentionally performs an abortion with knowledge that or with reckless disregard as to whether the person upon whom the abortion is to be performed is an unemancipated minor or an incompetent person without providing the required notification is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. House Judiciary/Senate Health & Long Term Care.

HB 1546: In-Home Care Services

Revises provisions related to long-term care of adults. **House Health Care.**

HB 1590: Contraceptive Health Benefits

Assures an individual or group health insurance plan may not exclude or restrict an enrollee's access to FDA-approved prescription contraceptives or outpatient contraceptive services, if the health plan provides benefits for prescription drugs or outpatient health services. **House Health Care.** Public Hearing, 2-19-99, 1:30 p.m.., House Hearing Room C.

HB 1611: School Law Waivers

Deletes the expiration date of June 30, 1999 relating to waivers of certain laws and rules pertaining to schools. **House Education.**

HB 1620: Vulnerable Adult Protection

Provides DSHS and law enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate complaints of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults. Provides protective services and legal remedies to protect them. **House Health Care.**

HB 1650: Oral Medications at Schools

Expands the list of health professionals who may request to have school employees administer oral medications to students. **House Education.** *Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m.., House Hearing Room A..*

HB 1659/SB 5465: Family Planning Services

Authorizes DSHS to, upon receipt of approval from the federal Health Care Financing Administration, to implement a waiver under section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act to provide family planning services to persons with family incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. **House Appropriations/Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

HB 1702: Medicaid Trial Prescriptions

Directs DSHS to establish a trial prescription program to increase compliance and reduce Medicaid costs. **House Health Care.**

HB 1733: Residential Day Care Location

Prohibits any city, town, or county from restricting or prohibiting the use of a residential dwelling, located in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, as a family day-care provider's facility serving 12 or fewer children. **House Local Government.**

HB 1764: Substance-Affected Infants

Requires that a pregnant or lactating woman's health care provider screen for substance abuse. The provider must convey positive test results from a mother to the infant's primary health care provider. Provides for the option of a tubal-ligation of the affected mother at no cost to her. Requires health care providers to inform mothers of substance-affected infants of drug treatment and birth control services. Requires the health care provider of a newborn infant test any infant the provider reasonably believes is drug-affected; and notify DSHS of the name and address of the parent or parents of a drug-affected infant. **House Children & Family Services.** Public Hearing, 2-17-99, 8:00 a..m., House Hearing Room E.

HB 1784: Adoption Information Disclosure

Requires that, after receiving a request by an adopted person 18 years of age or older, DOH shall provide the person with a noncertified copy of their original birth certificate, unless the birth parent has filed an affidavit of nondisclosure. **House Children & Family Services.**

HB 1808/SB 5783: Nurse/Student Ratios

Requires that, beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every 1,500 full-time equivalent students. In the 2000-01 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every 1,000 full-time equivalent students. In the 2001-02 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every 750 full-time equivalent students. **House Education/Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

HB 1837/SB 5766: Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Requires the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to increase the number of trained volunteer long-term care ombudsmen available to residents living in these settings. Appropriates funds from the general fund to the Dept. of Community, Trade, and Economic Development for distribution state-wide to the regional offices of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. House Health Care/Senate Health & Long-Term Care.

HB 1855: Breastfeeding

Declares that the act of breastfeeding or expressing breast milk is not indecent exposure. Requires that, except where reasonable safety or security considerations require other options, an employer must make reasonable efforts to provide a convenient, sanitary, safe, private, and comfortable room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a restroom, where the employee can express her milk in privacy. **House Commerce & Labor.** Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m.., House Hearing Room B.

HB 1892: Hunger Survey

Directs DOH to administer and coordinate a hunger survey project. The project is to determine the prevalence of hunger in the total population and among low-income families; the characteristics of hungry families and the extent to which anti-hunger resources are or are not addressing their needs; and the ways hungry families attempt to cope with food shortages and the lessons their efforts provide in making services more effective. **House Children & Family Services.** *Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m.., House Hearing Room E.*

HB 1905/SB 5775: Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Allows a trained volunteer long-term care ombudsman may identify, investigate, and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities relating to action, inaction, or decisions, which may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of these individuals. **House Health Care/Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

HB 1922: Employer Provided Child Care

Intends to provide tax credits to small businesses, located in distressed areas, that provide employee child care benefits to their employees. **House Children & Family Services**

SB 5014: Employer Sponsored Childcare

Provides economic incentives for employer-sponsored child care benefits. Senate Labor & Workforce Development. Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 9:00 a.m.., Senate Hearing Room 3.

SB 5070: Controlled Substance Delivery

Includes delivery of a controlled substance to a pregnant woman as an aggravating circumstance in sentencing determinations. **Senate Judiciary.**

SB 5131: Day Care Liability Insurance

Requires every licensed child day-care center and family day-care provider to provide to the department proof that the licensee has day-care insurance as defined in RCW 48.88.020 or for day-care centers, is self-insured pursuant to chapter 48.90 RCW. Liability limits under this section shall be the same as set forth in RCW 48.88.050. **Senate Ways & Means.**

SB 5132: Child Care Service Information

Requires every child day-care center and family daycare provider to prominently post their license, notice of any pending enforcement action, notice that inspection reports and any notices of enforcement actions for the previous three years are available from the licensee and the department, and any other information required by DSHS. Requires every child day-care center and family day-care provider to have readily available for review by DSHS, parents, and the public a copy of each inspection report and notice of enforcement action received by the center or provider from the department for the past three years. Directs DSHS to place a child day-care center or family day-care provider on nonreferral status or stop placement status if the center or provider has failed or refused to comply with chapter 74.15 RCW or rules adopted under that chapter and an enforcement action has been taken. Directs DSHS to establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number for

communication of information regarding child day-care centers and family day-care providers. **Senate Ways & Means.**

SB 5141: Newborn Screening Service Fee

Allows DOH to collect an additional fee for supplying services under the state's infant screening program. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5277: Higher Education Student Child Care

Allows the Higher Education Coordinating Board to award, on a competitive basis, child care grants to state institutions of higher education to encourage programs to address the need for high quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students at higher education institutions. **Senate Higher Education.**

SB 5293: Family Leave

Revises provisions relating to family leave. Allows persons working 10 hours weekly to apply for family and medical leave. Requires employers of fifty or more persons to comply with this act. **Senate Labor & Workforce Development.**

SB 5295: Breastfeeding

Declares the act of breastfeeding or expressing breast milk is not indecent exposure. Allows that, except where reasonable safety or security considerations require other options, an employer must make reasonable efforts to provide a convenient, sanitary, safe, private, and comfortable room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a restroom, where the employee can express her milk in privacy. **Senate Labor & Workforce Development.**

SB 5311: Body Piercing

Prohibits body piercing on persons under the age of eighteen. **Senate Judiciary.**

SB 5390: Healthy Birth Outcomes

Restricts the maternity care access system to solely and exclusively providing for prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care intended to achieve healthy birth outcomes. Any medical or health or social-related services associated with the termination of a pregnancy including but not limited to information, counseling, and referral is prohibited from being provided or funded through this program. Requires any funding for medical care services or medical assistance associated with the ter-

mination of a pregnancy including information, counseling, and referral to be accounted for and identified in a separate and discrete manner so that these funds are accounted for under a separate and distinct funding allotment and program element in the budget. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5430: Women's Health Office

Creates the Office of Women's Health within DOH. Provides equity in policy considerations and decisions affecting women's health, additional opportunities for basic and applied research directly affecting women's health, and innovative programs to address the effects of domestic violence on the health of women in the state of Washington. Makes an appropriation of an unspecified amount to carry out the purposes of the act. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5480: Drug-Affected Infants

Requires a woman's primary health care provider to identify and screen pregnant and lactating women according to the criteria developed by DOH, convey to the infant's primary health care provider screening findings that would suggest the need for testing of the infant, or conduct the testing, inform the birth mother of an infant who tests positive that she can have a tubal ligation at no cost to her within six months following the birth, and inform the birth mother of an infant who tests positive of appropriate drug treatment and birth control services. Requires the health care provider of a newborn infant to test any infant the provider reasonably believes is drug-affected and notify DSHS of the name and address of the parent or parents of a drugaffected infant. Senate Human Services & Corrections. Public Hearing, 2-19-99, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5547: School Medical Assistance

Allows school district employees, not licensed as nurses or nursing assistants, to file a written letter of refusal to administer oral medications or refusal to perform clean, intermittent bladder catheterization of students. This may not serve as grounds for employee dismissal or termination of employment. **Senate Education.**

SB 5555: Health Care Background Checks

Intends to protect children, vulnerable adults, and other consumers of health care by requiring background checks of all individuals applying for and holding registrations, certifications, and licenses to practice as health care practitioners in the state. Permanently dis-

qualifies an individual from holding a license under the Uniform Disciplinary Act if the individual has a conviction record of a serious violent offense, a sex offense, any felony offense constituting sexual exploitation of a minor, criminal mistreatment of a child or dependent person, or the sale or purchase of a minor child, or any federal or out-of-state equivalent to those designated by this act. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5561: Vulnerable Adult Protection

Provides DSHS and law enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate complaints of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults. Provides protective services and legal remedies to protect them. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5590: Oral Medications at Schools

Expands the list of health professionals who may request to have school employees administer oral medications to students. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5633: Eliminating Arts, Health & Fitness Education Requirements

Deletes the arts, health, and fitness education requirements in schools in implementation of the Education Reform Act. **Senate Education.**

SB: 5771: Medical Marijuana

Clarifies the administration and enforcement of medical marijuana regulations. Reinforces the legitimate medical decisions made by physicians, primary caregivers, and qualifying patients by adopting necessary clarifying amendments. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5772: Domestic Violence Victims Records

Strengthens the confidentiality of records for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. **Senate State** & Local Government.

Fiscal

HB 1165/SB 5182: Capital Budget

Makes appropriations and authorizes expenditures for capital improvements. **House Capital Budget/Senate Ways & Means.**

HB 1167/SB 5183: Capital Budget/ Supplemental

Makes supplemental appropriations and authorizes ex-

HB 1186/SB 5180: Operating Budget

Makes appropriations and authorizes expenditures for the operations of state agencies for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001. **House Appropriations/Senate Ways & Means.**

HB 1187: Operating Budget/Supplemental

Makes supplemental appropriations for the 1997-99 biennium. **House Appropriations.**

HB 1235: Health Records Fees

Prohibits charging a fee for furnishing recorded health care information to a patient, his or her attorney, or authorized representative, if the information is requested for the purpose of supporting a claim or appeal under any provision of the Social Security Act or any federal or state financial needs-based benefit program, and the request is accompanied by documentation of the claim or appeal. **House Health Care.**

HB 1256: Women's Health

Authorizes the Secretary of Health to accept such grants, services, and property from the federal government, foundations, organizations, medical schools, and other entities as are available for the purposes of activities and services to promote women's health. **House Health Care.**

HB 1640: Community Health Clinics/Tax

Provides tax exemptions for community health clinics. **House Finance.**

SSB 5181 Operating Budget/Supplemental

Makes supplemental appropriations for the 1997-99 biennium. **House Appropriations.**

SB 5250: Women's Health Programs

Authorizes the secretary to accept such grants, services, and property from the federal government, foundations, organizations, medical schools, and other entities as are available for the purpose of designing and implementing programs that specifically address the health-related needs of women. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5755: Emergency Medical Service Funds

Declares that all tobacco settlement funds will be used for emergency medical services throughout the state. **Senate Ways & Means.**

SB 5778: Disease Outbreak Response Fund

Provides funds to help local health jurisdictions with costs associated with communicable disease outbreaks and tuberculosis detentions. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

Injury Prevention

HB 1181: Domestic Violence Perpetrator

Requires if a domestic violence perpetrator or the victim has a minor child, treatment must specifically include education regarding the effects of domestic violence on children, such as the emotional impacts of domestic violence on children and the long-term consequences that exposure to incidents of domestic violence may have on children, and parenting skills to help the perpetrator control the events or behavior that lead to incidents of domestic violence. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections.**

HB 1196: Concealed Pistol Permits

Allows concealed weapons permits issued in other states and territories to remain valid within Washington. **House Judiciary.**

HB 1211: Sex Offender Registry

Requires the Washington State Patrol to maintain an internet site containing the following information from the central sex offenders registry: Name, current address, crime for which convicted, and date and place of conviction. The state patrol shall make this information available to the public in paper form upon request. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections.**

HB 1223/SB 5287: Motorcycle Equipment

Removes the current requirement that motorcycle riders wear an approved safety helmet, unless the rider is under twenty-one years of age. Revises other motorcycle equipment laws. **House Transportation/Senate Transportation.**

HB 1352: Concealed Pistol Licenses

Declares "good cause" for a temporary emergency license includes, but is not limited to, when the applicant has obtained a valid no-contact order, anti-harassment order, or protection order restraining another person from molesting or disturbing the applicant or excluding another person from going onto the grounds of or entering the home, workplace, or school of the applicant and has sworn by affidavit that it is not unlawful for the applicant to possess a firearm. **House Judiciary**.

HB 1391: Concealed Pistol Permits

Declares a license from another jurisdiction is valid only if the license is currently valid in that jurisdiction; and the Department of Licensing, after consultation with the Washington State Patrol, has adopted a rule identifying the jurisdiction as one that has restrictions that are at least as restrictive as those in Washington and recognizes Washington State concealed pistol licenses as valid in that state or will recognize Washington licenses upon the department's identification of the jurisdiction. **House Judiciary.**

HB 1406: Pistol Purchase or Transfer

Eliminates the authority of the Department of Licensing to keep records of pistol purchases or transfers. **House Judiciary.**

HB 1424/SB 5017: Firearms Access by Minors

Requires the storage in a manner that restricts a minor's likely access to the firearm without the permission of the minor's parent or the person having charge of the minor or supervision required by law. Makes it a class C felony if a person violates this act and, as a result thereof, a minor gains access to a firearm and uses it to inflict injury or death upon himself or herself, or any other person. Defines "minor", for purposes of this act as a person under the age of sixteen. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections/Senate Judiciary.**

HB 1452: Cancer Screening for Low-Income Women

Provides a \$1,000,000 annual appropriation for the screening of low-income women aged 40-49 for breast and cervical cancer. **House Health Care.** *Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 a.m., House Hearing Room C.*

HB 1552/SB 5570: Vehicular Assault

Declares a person guilty of vehicular assault if he operates or drives any vehicle with disregard for the safety of others, and this conduct causes serious bodily injury to another. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections/Senate Judiciary.**

HB 1555/SB 5573: Criminal History Records

Declares criminal justice agencies may furnish certain criminal records to other agencies. This provision of information is not considered a dissemination of criminal records. **House Judiciary/Senate Judiciary.**

HB 1752: Firearms at Child Care Facilities

Prohibits firearms at day-care centers and preschools.

House Judiciary.

HB 1757: Inmate DNA Testing

Requires that juveniles and adults who are convicted of violent or sexual offenses submit blood samples for DNA testing. Intends that all health care providers assist interested parents in obtaining blood samples for DNA testing for safekeeping by the parent. This will enable parents to better assist law enforcement in finding and identifying a child in the unfortunate event of a child's disappearance or abduction, and in identifying children who may be victims in accidents or natural disasters. **House Criminal Justice & Corrections.**

HB 1806: Vessel Operation Under Influence

Revises provisions relating to operating a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug. **House Judiciary.**

SB 5294: Firearms Storage

Declares a person is guilty of reckless endangerment if the person stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access, and a child obtains possession of the loaded firearm. Does not apply if the firearm is secured in a locked box, gun safe, other secure locked storage space, or secured with a lock or any device that prevents the firearm from discharging, if the child's access to the firearm is supervised by an adult, if the child's access to the firearm was obtained as a result of an unlawful entry, or if the child's access to the firearm was in accordance with state law. Requires that, when selling any firearm, every dealer must offer to sell or give the purchaser a locked box, gun safe, a lock, or any device that prevents the firearm from discharging. Senate Judiciary.

SB 5356: Sex Offender Chemical Treatment

Requires that, if a sexual offense is not one for which the conviction results in the offender's being a persistent offender, the court shall impose as a condition of release such treatment, including the use of medroxyprogesterone acetate, or a comparable chemical, together with any other mental health or chemical dependency treatment, as the court finds appropriate to reduce the likelihood of the offender's commission of a subsequent sex offense upon release. Allows an offender to seek early termination of a treatment regimen imposed under this subsection, but an early termination may not be granted unless, by clear and convincing evidence, the offender proves that the offender no longer has a mental abnormality and that a contin-

ued treatment regimen is not necessary to prevent the offender's commission of a predatory act. Allows an offender to agree to surgical alternatives to medroxyprogesterone acetate or a comparable chemical treatment if the offender voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently petitions the court in writing. Declares an offender who unlawfully stops treatment imposed under this subsection is guilty of a class B felony. **Senate Judiciary.**

SB 5448: Firearms on Public Transit

Makes it unlawful for a person to carry onto, or to possess on, any means of public transit any firearm. **Senate Judiciary**.

SB 5554: Community/Technical College Board Duties

Authorizes community and technical colleges boards of trustees to adopt rules regarding weapons on district-owned or maintained property. **Senate Higher Education.**

SB 5824: Children on Motorcycles

Enhances safety for children transported on motorcycles or a motor-driven cycle. **Senate Transportation.**

Insurance

HB 1301/SB 5416: Children's Health Insurance

Creates the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide health care to children who are eligible for health care coverage under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act. **House Health Care/Senate Ways & Means.**

HB 1469: Children's Health Initiative:

Creates the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide health care to children who are eligible for health care coverage under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act. Creates the program under the Health Care Authority. Limits the program to children with special health care needs. **House Health Care.**

HB 1496: Health Coverage Enrollment:

Requires, no later than September 1, 1999, the Secretary of Social and Health Services, the Administrator of the State Health Care Authority, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement a children's health care outreach program to inform children and their parents of the availability of the medical assis-

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tance program and the basic health plan. **House Health Care.** Public Hearing, 2-16-99, 1:30 p.m.., House Hearing Room C.

HB 1624: Health Care Decisions

Seeks to protect Washington residents in need of medically-necessary care and treatment from inappropriate treatment delays or denials from medical carriers. **House Judiciary.**

HB 1847/SB 5776: Chiropractic Services Access

Requires that certain health insurance policies provide enrolled patients with direct access to covered chiropractic services without a prior referral. **House Health Care/Senate Health & Long-Term Care**

HB 1888: Patient Bill of Rights

Intends that patients covered by health plans receive quality health care designed to maintain and improve their health. Declares that health plan patients: have sufficient and timely access to clinically and culturally appropriate health care services designed to maintain and improve health; have adequate choice among qualified health care professionals; are assured that health care decisions are made by appropriate medical personnel based upon sound medical standards;) have improved access to information regarding their health plans; have access to a quick and impartial process for appealing plan denials of health care coverage; are protected from unnecessary invasions of health care privacy; are assured that personal health care information will be used only as necessary to obtain and pay for health care or to improve the quality of care; and are protected from unfair and deceptive practices. House Health Care.

HB 1889: General Anesthesia Services

Requires that each public employee benefit plan that offers coverage for hospital, medical, or ambulatory surgery center services, to cover hospital and general anesthesia services in conjunction with dental procedures in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center if the covered person: is under the age of 7 and the required procedure cannot be safely and effectively performed in a dental office; is physically or developmentally disabled and cannot be safely and effectively treated in a dental office; or has at least one medical condition that would create an undue medical risk if treatment is not performed in a hospital or ambulatory surgery center;

such treatment must be approved by the patient's physician. **House Health Care.** *Public Hearing. 2-19-99,* 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room C.

SB 5111: Genetic Information/Health Insurance

Declares a health carrier may not deny or cancel health plan coverage, or vary the premiums, terms, or conditions for health plan coverage, for an individual or a family member of an individual on the basis of genetic information or because the individual or family member of an individual has requested or received genetic services. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5112: Mastectomies/Health Insurance

Requires every health carrier and every state purchased health care plan that provides coverage for mastectomies to permit the attending provider, in consultation with the patient, to make decisions on the length of inpatient stay after a mastectomy. These decisions must be based on accepted medical practice. **Senate 2**nd **Reading.**

SB 5349: Cranial Hair Insurance

Requires insurance coverage for cranial hair prostheses for alopecia areata. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5355: Medicare Replacement Policies

Requires issuer of Medicare supplement insurance policies to cover both Medicare hospital and physician services without evidence of insurability, for people who are eligible because of age, disability, or end-stage renal disease, if the Medicare supplement policy replaces a similar policy or certificate. Insurers may set rates only on a community-rated basis, and may develop no more than two rating pools. **Senate Rules.**

SB 5398: Eating Disorder Health Insurance

Requires health carriers to provide coverage for the treatment of eating disorders. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5425: Mental Health Services

Declares it is no longer cost-effective to treat persons with mental disorders differently than persons with medical and surgical disorders. Requires insurance coverage at parity for mental health services, which means that this coverage be delivered under the same terms and conditions as medical and surgical coverage. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5445: Mandated Benefit Bill Review

Gives discretion to the chair of an appropriate commit-

tee of the Legislature to determines if it is in the public interest to review any mandated benefit bill that has been referred to the committee. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5512: Contraceptive Insurance Coverage

Attempts to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and ensure access to contraceptive services in health plans that cover prescription drugs and outpatient health services. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5587: Patient Bill of Rights

Declares health plan patients have: sufficient and timely access to clinically and culturally appropriate health care services to maintain and improve health; adequate choice among qualified health care professionals; are assured that health care decisions are made by appropriate medical personnel based upon sound medical standards; improved access to information regarding their health plans; access to a quick and impartial process for appealing denials of health care coverage; are protected from unnecessary invasions of health care privacy; are assured that personal health care information will be used only as necessary to obtain and pay for health care or to improve the quality of care; and are protected from unfair and deceptive practices. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5588: Health Carrier Advertising

Prohibits a health carrier from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices, such as placing advertisements that are false, inaccurate, or misleading. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5607: Retired/Disabled Health Insurance

Requires a county, municipality, or other political subdivision that has a health insurance plan for its employees to permit retired and disabled employees and their dependents to continue participation in the plan, subject to certain exceptions. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5786: Acupuncture Services

Including acupuncture as a service provided as medical assistance. Directs DSHS to limit the number of acupunctural treatments provided to a maximum of 12 per year per patient. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5812: Health Care Claim Payment

Requires medical insurers to pay health care claims promptly. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5813: Health Plan Medical Director

Requires third-party payors to designate a licensed medical director for its coverage decisions. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

Professional/Facilities Licensing

HB 1000/SB 5747: Counselors/Privileged Communication

Requires communications between certified counselors and their clients remain privileged. **House Judiciary/ Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** *Public Hearing,* 2-18-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

HB 1113/SB 5149: Occupational Therapy

Requires an occupational therapist to, after evaluating a patient and if the case is a medical one, refer the case to a physician for appropriate medical direction if such direction is lacking. Treatment by an occupational therapy practitioner of such a medical case may take place only upon the referral of a physician, osteopathic physician, podiatric physician and surgeon, naturopath, chiropractor, physician assistant, clinical psychologist, or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed to practice in this state. House Health Care/Senate Health & Long-Term Care.

HB 1135: Privileged Communications

Declares any communication or information acquired by any emergency service provider involved in a peer support counseling session conducted by a peer support group counselor is confidential and shall not be disclosed by any party attending the group counseling session, except to the extent necessary to provide assistance pursuant to the counseling session. **House Judiciary.**

HB 1216/SB 5200: Secretary of Health Authority

Deletes the provision terminating the Secretary of Health's authority for rulemaking activities related to administrative procedure on March 1, 1999. **House** Health Care/Senate Eligible 2^d Reading.

HB 1217/SB 5540: Hospital Licensing Information

Allows the release of hospital licensing, complaint, and administrative action information as allowed under public disclosure law. Establishes timeframes for disclosure of licensing inspections, complaint investigations and administrative actions to allow the hospital adequate time to receive materials prior to disclosure. Allows DOH, the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Health Organizations or any other accrediting organization to review and audit peer review records created by a quality improvement committee. Protects peer review records from disclosure during the discovery process. Directs hospitals to produce and make accessible to the department appropriate records to facilitate the review/audit process. House Health Care/Senate Health & Long-Term Care. Public Hearing, 2-17-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

HB 1218: Nurse Delegation of Tasks

Authorizes RNs to delegate nursing care tasks using their professional nursing judgment and standards of practice to registered or certified nursing assistants in community-based care settings. Provides authority to the Nursing Commission to develop protocols for implementing all nurse delegation through rulemaking. Allows RNs, on a case by case basis, to delegate tasks to nursing assistants in community-based care settings prior to the nursing assistant completing the nurse delegation core training. The RN is required to provide all necessary one-on-one training specific to that task and consumer and would assure that the nursing assistant received the core delegation training within the first 60 days of the delegation process. Lack of completion of core training in the first 60 days of the delegation process will result in immediately rescinding the delegation process. No extensions would be permitted. House Health Care.

HB 1251/SB 5415: Boards, Commissions, and Programs

Allows the Secretary of Health to designate health care assistants and other health care providers to serve on ad hoc committees appointed by the Secretary to study specified topics. Removes the specific authority of the Secretary to appoint dietitians and nutritionists to serve on such committees. Eliminates the Health Professions Advisory Committee. **House State Government/Senate State and Local Government**. Executive Session, 2-19-99, 8:00 a.m., House Hearing Room C.

HB 1483: Nursing Facility Payment:

Changes the way in which economic trends are adjusted for recognizing costs by requiring the use of the HCFA index. The ceiling for home office costs is eliminated and therapy costs are removed from the daily rate and are set up on a fee system administered by the Medical Assistance Administration. DSHS is given authority for establishing exceptional rates for residents needing specialized heavy care. Establishes a new rate component called the "tax component" allowing facilities that pay taxes to recoup these funds. Carries forward three year rebasing beyond its current 2001 expiration date. **House State Government**.

HB 1486: Refracting Opticians

Revises provisions relating to authorizing dispensing opticians to perform eye refraction and modify existing prescriptions to reflect changes in vision. **House Health Care.**

HB 1533: Health Care Work Place Violence:

Requires that, by July 1, 2000, each health care setting shall develop and implement a plan to reasonably prevent and protect employees from violence at the setting. **House Commerce & Labor.**

HB 1699: Dentist Continuing Education

Directs the Dental Quality Commission to establish continuing education for dentists. **House Health Care.** *Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 8:00 a..m., House Hearing Room C.*

HB 1711: Hospital Licensing Information

Declares that information received by DOH through filed reports or hospital inspections may be disclosed. Exceptions are licensing inspections or complaint investigations, which may be disclosed no sooner than 3 business days after the hospital has received the resulting assessment report. Information regarding administrative action against the licensee may be disclosed after the hospital has received the documents initiating the administrative action. Provides that DOH, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, and any other accrediting organization may review and audit the records of a quality improvement or peer review committee in connection with their inspection and review of hospitals. The information obtained will not be subject to the discovery process, and confidentiality shall be respected as required. Each hospital will produce and make accessible to DOH the appropriate records and otherwise facilitate the review and audit. House State Government.

HB 1762: Audiologist/Speech Pathologist

Designates provisions for the licensure of audiologists and speech-language pathologists. **House Health Care.**

HB 1862: Health Professionals Licenses

Declares that the disciplining authority may order restrictions on or the revocation of a health care professional's license to practice, after a finding or hearing that a license holder or applicant has committed unprofessional conduct or is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a physical or mental condition. **House Health Care.**

HB 1863: Part-Time Health Commissions

Provides for compensation to part-time health commissions. **House Health Care.** Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 8:00 a..m., House Hearing Room C.

HB 1864: Surgical Technologists

Authorizes the registration of surgical technologists. **House Health Care.**

HB 1868: Impaired Dentist Account

Requires DOH to collect a small surcharge on dental professional licenses to establish the Impaired Dentist Account, for the voluntary treatment and rehabilitation of impaired dentists. **House Health Care.**

SB 5006: Animal Pregnancy Testing

Exempts animal pregnancy testing from veterinary licensing requirements. **Senate Agriculture & Rural Development.**

SB 5050: Intractable Pain Treatment.

Allows health professionals who have taken reasonable efforts to eliminate or alleviate pain to prescribe Schedule II-IV drugs for the treatment of intractable pain. Requires DOH to develop guidelines for the treatment and informed consent of intractable pain. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5114: Hospital Annual Inspections

Provides an exemption from annual inspections for hospitals accredited by the American Osteopathic Association similar to that offered to hospitals accredited by the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Health Organizations. **Senate Eligible 2**nd **Reading.**

SB 5149: Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy as-

sistants are considered occupational therapy practitioners. Physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, surgeons, naturopaths, chiropractors, physician assistants, clinical psychologists, and advanced registered nurse practitioners can refer patients to occupational therapy practitioners. **Senate health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5216: Podiatric Physician/Surgeon

Authorizes podiatric physicians and surgeons to become physician assistants. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5262: Sleep Monitoring

Declares the scope of practice for respiratory care practitioners does not prohibit any person from performing sleep monitoring tasks under the supervision or direction of a licensed health care provider. **Senate Eligible 2nd Reading.**

SB 5312: Health Care Workplace Violations

Requires that, by July 1, 2000, each health care setting shall develop and implement a plan to reasonably prevent and protect employees from violence. Requires, in development of the plan required by this act, the health care setting shall consider any guidelines on violence in the workplace or in health care settings issued by the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Labor and Industries, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Medicare, and health care setting accrediting organizations. Requires that, by July 1, 2001, and on a regular basis thereafter, each health care setting shall provide violence prevention training to all its employees. **Senate Health & Long Term Care.**

SB 5388: Dental Hygienists/Sealants

Allows a dental hygienist to apply for endorsement by DOH as a school sealant endorsed dental hygienist upon completion of the Washington State sealant guidelines and training. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5599: Temporary Worker Housing

Requires DOH and L & I to adopt joint rules for the licensing, operation, inspection, and enforcement of temporary worker housing. These rules shall establish worker protection standards that are as effective, but do not exceed, the standards developed under WISHA. **Senate Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial In-**

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SB 5604: Health Facility Worker Identification

Requires all persons providing health care services directly to patients at a health care facility to wear identification badges. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5630: Farm Worker Housing

Authorizes the Housing Finance Commission to provide a revenue source for farm worker housing through the auction sale of tax credits. **Senate Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions.**

SB 5648: Lodging Businesses

Provides consistency in definitions regarding businesses furnishing lodging; defines a hotel as a facility that furnishes three or more rooms for guest accommodation. **Senate Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions.**

SB 5657: Veterinary Medical Facilities

Allows animal care and control agencies and nonprofit humane societies that employ veterinarians may own and operate veterinary medical facilities. **Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.**

SB 5669: Conversion Vending/Medical Units

Requires specific rules for the occupants of conversion vending units and medical units to protect the occupants from fire and other dangers. **Senate Labor & Workforce Development.**

SB 5702: Physician's Assistants

Revises physician assistant licensing and practice requirements. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5739: Death Certificates

Allows physician's assistants or advanced registered nurses as persons to be presented certificates of death. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5768: Emergency Medical Services

Allows emergency medical technicians to administer epinephrine. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.** Public Hearing, 2-18-99, 1:30 p.m.., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5773: Dental Hygiene Board

Creates the Board of Dental Hygiene. Senate Health

& Long-Term Care. Public Hearing, 2-15-99, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4.

SB 5805: Nurse Practitioner Authority

Provides that nurse practitioners may dispense Schedules 2 through 4 of controlled substances of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. This is limited to a maximum of a 72-hour supply of the prescribed controlled substance. **Senate Health & Long-Term Care.**

SB 5821: On-Site Wastewater Treatment

Establishes a state-wide licensing program for persons who design on-site wastewater treatment systems. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

Regulatory Reform

HB 1010: Rural Distressed Areas

Among other provisions designed to enhance rural economic development requires regulatory relief to reduce and streamline zoning, permitting, and regulatory requirements in order to enhance the capability of businesses to grow and prosper in rural distressed areas. **House Economic Development, Housing & Trade.**

HB 1040: Rural Distressed Areas

Requires the state to facilitate rural economic development. Establishes within the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development the Office of Business Assistance, and recruitment for rural distressed areas. Requires the joint legislative Audit and Review Committee to design an evaluation mechanism for economically distressed counties under this act and undertake an evaluation of this act's effectiveness by November 1, 2003. The agencies implementing the programs under this act shall assist the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee evaluation. Requires regulatory relief to reduce and streamline zoning, permitting, and regulatory requirements. **House Economic Development, Housing & Trade.**

HB 1893: Permit Issuance

Finds that environmental permit issuance can be streamlined by requiring local jurisdictions to coordinate their permit processes with those of the state government. **House Local Government.**

HB 1924: Administrative Rule Changes

Requires an agency to notify affected businesses of the requirements of a rule that imposes additional require-

ments on the businesses. The agency must make a good faith effort to notify the affected businesses within 250 days of the effective date, and give information on how to obtain technical assistance to comply with the rule. **House State Government.**

SB 5018: Permit Assistance Center

Directs the Permit Assistance Center to provide a periodic report to the Legislature that provides policy and operational recommendations for streamlining and coordinating environmental permitting in Washington; and summarizes the results of the center's efforts to measure center performance and outcomes over time. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5148: Permit Assistance Center

The Permit Assistance Center is re-authorized and the sunset provisions are repealed. The center's reporting requirements are changed from annual to periodic. The requirements focus on making recommendations for streamlining and coordinating environmental permitting as well as on documenting the center's performance. The timing of negotiating for coordinated permitting services is modified. Cost recovery is authorized in which agencies may seek from the permit applicant the reimbursement of costs incurred in environmental review and permit processing. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water Resources.**

SB 5242: Unlawful Agency Actions

Allows individuals who have taken part in an administrative proceedings regarding an application for a permit to receive attorney's fees and court costs if the an agency action is arbitrary, capricious, unlawful or exceeds lawful authority, or if the agency fails to take action within legally mandated time limits. **Senate State & Local Government.**

SB 5281: Permit Assistance Center

Restructures the Permit Assistance Center to provide a reliable and consolidated source of information concerning federal, state, tribal, and local environmental and land use laws and procedures that apply to any given proposal; provide information and assistance to individuals, businesses, and public agencies regarding environmental and land use laws as well as local, state, and federal permitting requirements; serve as a project facilitator to assist an applicant in identifying regulatory requirements, processes, and permits associated with a project proposal; assist an applicant by develop-

ing a coordinated permit process for a project proposal; and assist the state to achieve its rural economic development goals by providing greater access to the center's services for individuals, businesses, and public agencies in rural counties and for businesses considering locating or expanding in rural counties. **Senate Environmental Quality & Water.**

State Government

HB 1239/SB 5363: Civil Service Reform

Directs the Personnel Resources Board to conduct a comprehensive review of all rules governing the classification, allocation, and reallocation of positions within the classified service. Goals are include developing a simplified classification system that will substantially reduce the number of job classifications in the classified service, developing a classification system to permit state agencies to respond flexibly to changing technologies, economic and social conditions, and the needs of its citizens, and to enhance mobility and career advancement opportunities. Authorizes any department, agency, or institution of higher education to purchase services provided by employees in classified service under this chapter by contracting with individuals, nonprofit organizations, businesses, or other entities. Allows for collective bargaining reform without granting any employee the right to strike or refuse to perform his or her official duties. House State Govemment/Senate Labor & Workforce Development.

HB 1482: Civil Service Reform:

Finds that there is a significant benefit in providing government services through a competitive system in which both public and private entities participate and that updating the state civil service system and improving the system's classification of jobs to more clearly distinguish

between management and non-management personnel are needed to bring the system into the twenty-first century. Finds that extending collective bargaining to wages and conditions of employment and making state agencies responsible for what they do rather than how they do it will improve government accountability. **House State Government.**

SB 5066: Legislative Reporting Requirements

Establishes a procedure in which a state agency that has a legislatively mandated requirement to report to

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the Legislature or legislative committees regarding a specific matter and the agency either fails to report to the Legislature by the specified time or provides a report that is insufficiently responsive to the legislation requiring the report, the Legislature, by concurrent resolution, shall impose a \$100,000 penalty. **Senate State** & Local Government.

Tobacco

HB 1531/SB 5485: Tobacco Product Manufactur-

Places the financial burdens imposed by cigarette smoking on tobacco manufacturers rather than the state. Creates a reserve account for tobacco manufacturers not participating in the master tobacco settlement agreement. House Health Care/Senate Rules 2nd Reading. Executive Session, 2-18-99, 8:00 a.m., House Hearing Room C.

HB 1665: Tobacco Use & Distribution

Prohibits the sale of tobacco or tobacco products in publicly owned or leased facilities, except correctional institutions. Allows the Secretary of Corrections or local jail administrators to prohibit the sale of tobacco and tobacco related products in facilities under their jurisdiction. House Commerce & Labor.

HB 1717: Forfeited Tobacco Products

Requires the prompt destruction of cigarettes or other tobacco products that are seized or forfeited. House Commerce & Labor.

HJM 4003: Tobacco Settlement

Requests amending the federal Medicaid statute to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries. Filed with Secretary of State.

SB 5359: Tobacco Litigation Monies

Directs that funds received by the state as a result of the settlement of the state's legal action against tobacco product manufacturers, exclusive of costs and attorneys' fees, shall be deposited in the Tobacco Settlement Account. In addition to providing funds for the Basic Health Plan, allows that funds in the account may be spent by the Secretary of Health only for public health purposes relating to tobacco, including but not limited to enforcing prohibitions on tobacco sales to minors, counter-marketing and advertising efforts relating to tobacco, school and community educational programs discouraging tobacco use, tobacco use cessation programs, research regarding tobacco related illnesses, and administrative expenses of the Tobacco and Prevention and Control Board. Funds in the account may be spent without appropriation. Allows expenditures from the account to begin in fiscal year 2001, and for any fiscal year may not exceed \$26,600,000. Creates the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board to consist of 14 members. Authorizes the state treasurer to transfer a total of \$155,000,000 from the tobacco settlement account, to the tobacco prevention and control account, upon authorization of the director of financial management. The director shall authorize transfer of the total amount no later than June 30, 2001. Senate Ways & Means.

SB 5426: Tobacco Settlement/Tax Reduction

Reduces the state property tax equivalent to funds received under the state tobacco litigation settlement. Senate Ways & Means.

SB 5516: Tobacco Prevention & Control

Requires the tobacco prevention and control program to design and implement public health projects relating to tobacco, including but not limited to enforcing prohibitions on tobacco sales to minors. countermarketing and advertising efforts relating to

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Jennifer Bush, Contributor

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